

**Department of Human Services
Office of Rehabilitation Services
State Rehabilitation Council**

November 7, 2005

4:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

**RI Department of Labor and Training
Center General Complex 73 (Main Conference Room)
1511 Pontiac Avenue
Cranston, RI 02920**

Meeting Minutes

Present from State Rehabilitation Council: William. T. Anderson, Janice Belasco, Annette Bourbonniere, Domenic Di Orio, Robin Dolan, Susan Donovan, Judith L. Drew, Joseph Ferreira, Steven A. Florio, Margaret Hoyer, Catherine Sansonetti, J. David Sienko, Michaela Stannard

Present from Agency: Stephen Brunero, Gary Wier

Honored Guests: Rev. Robert Shaldone

1. Call to Order and Introductions – the Chair called the meeting to

order at 4:10 P.M.

2. Old Business

Additions or deletions to agenda – none

Revue and approval of meeting minutes

Motion

J. Belasco made a motion seconded by D. Di Orio and unanimously accepted to approve the minutes from the September 19, 2005 meeting.

1. New Business:

Nominations and Leadership:

Motion

J. Belasco made a motion seconded by S. Florio and unanimously accepted to approve the appointments for submittal to the Governor, of Jeanne Giroux and Fr. Robert Shaldone, to the Council for a term ending November 1, 2008.

Motion

J. Belasco made a motion seconded by S. Florio and unanimously

accepted to approve the Vice-appointment for submittal to the Governor, of Linda Deschenes for Michaela Stannard for a term ending November 1, 2006.

Motion

J. Belasco presented the Slate of Officers, Chair, J. D. Sineko, Vice-chair, J. Ferreira, and Secretary, M. Hoyer, to the Council and made a motion seconded by A. Bourbonniere to open the floor for discussion.

The Chair, B. Anderson, asked the Council three (3) times if there were any other nominations for Officers, being none, the discussion opened.

B. Anderson spoke regarding the responsibilities of the positions of Chair and reminded the Council that there had been times when D. Seinko had to abstain from votes because it was in conflict with his position with the Department of Education.

D. Sienko thanked the Nomination Committee and said he hoped to continue the leadership in the same manner as past Officers. He would propose to review with legal counsel from the Department of Education, "In terms of conflict with the Department of Education, it is a concern, and it could be a problem. The Agency I work for is under the same Agency, at the Federal level, as ORS. I would have to talk to legal counsel if there ever was a situation that could potentially be a conflict."

B. Anderson said that D. Sienko is the best person for this Council and felt it was the right decision but he also stated it would be remiss if, as the current Chair, he did not bring this possible troubling point up.

J. Drew asked for clarification as to the process to resolve this.

B. Anderson said that generally what happens is the Chair sees the Agenda first and then he needs to check with legal counsel if he feels there will be a conflict.

J. Drew said her concern is with right now. What are our options? Do we vote on it or table it?

R. Dolan asked if the Council could address this motion with a qualification that D. Sienko would get clarification from legal counsel and then address this at the next meeting.

C. Sansonetti felt the motion could not be that general. The Council can support him by reviewing the By-laws and if need be, amending them.

At this time the discussion was closed.

Motion

M. Hoyer made a motion seconded by A. Bourbonniere and unanimously accepted, to recommend the appointment of: J. D. Sineko, J. Ferreira, and M. Hoyer as Chair, Vice-chair, and Secretary, respectively, to go forward as the Slate of Officers for the Governor's approval.

Review of Chair's Letter to Department of Education

There were some questions regarding the wording of the letter and it was discussed and decided that J. Drew would re-work what B. Anderson had presented in a draft and send it to the other members of the Council for their suggestions and approval.

2006 SRC Schedule

An email will be sent out to all members as a way for them to input ideas for the upcoming year's schedule.

B. Anderson had to leave but parted with some thoughts and regards for the Council. "It has been my pleasure to serve on this Council. My hope is that the Council will continue its important task. It is nice to see the Council expanding. I'm sure you folks will have the experience that will be needed to work with the Administration in Washington."

At this time the Council presented B. Anderson with a

commemorative plaque and card of appreciation for his outstanding efforts and service during his terms on the Council.

The other departing members, A. Bourbonniere, M. Stannard, and C. Enos, were also presented with commemorative plaques of appreciation for their outstanding efforts and service during their terms on the Council.

ORS Directors Report - S. Brunero

(Due to time constraints the Director's Report was abbreviated. In the future, the Agenda will be re-worked to put this towards the beginning of the meetings)

Needs assessment: was disseminated to all members last week. Please take some time to review this information and it can be discussed at the next meeting.

Materials were disseminated to the Council; graphic charts detailing last year's Applications and Successful Outcomes.

Personnel: G. Wier is retiring in late December. This is his last SRC meeting. S. Shapiro will also be leaving at the end of November.

Strategic Planning Meeting: the results will be sent to the Council.

S. Sienko suggested planning the Agendas of the subcommittee work, with the strategic goals of the Agency. Once we see the result of the Strategic Planning, we will have a better idea of how we can help ORS.

Orientation of New Council Members: ORS has a video it would like to share and wishes to set up an orientation for the Council Members. Suggested January if possible.

D. Sienko addressed the orientation saying we will work this into the Council's upcoming years' schedule.

Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

**Nancy L. Baker, Staff
State Rehabilitation Council**